RESPONSIBLE ANIMAL RESEARCH

Format: 2 half-day (3 hours) sessions run over in 1 day

Proposed Date/Time: Wednesday 13th December 2017, 10:00-13:00 & 14:30-17:30

Overview: This workshop will provide a practical guide to research integrity and the responsible use of animals in bioscience research. It will comprise a mixture of presented material interspersed with interactive and reflective activities designed to engage and challenge participants. Research integrity will be defined and discussed in terms of the research framework, openness & transparency, & the reproducibility and reliability of research outputs. Case studies of poor research conduct will be discussed & freely available tools and resources to support researchers to meet good practice standards promoted.

AM Session:

- Research Integrity – what is it? (Definition) What does it include? (honesty, rigour, care & respect, openness & transparency)
- The culture of research – the benefits of having a good local culture will be discussed including the contribution that each individual makes to it. Pressures, conflicts & tensions that exist, what can and does go wrong (fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, failure, improper) will also be covered.
- Research integrity in practice – step by step guide to responsible animal research:
    1. Ensure you have a testable hypothesis – I will not go through how to turn a research question into a testable hypothesis but will remind them what this means in practice.
    2. Identify the most appropriate research model/method/system – I will talk about search strategies, useful websites & discuss the first of the 3Rs 'replacement'.
    3. Ensure you are familiar and up to date with the research framework including why legislation is not enough. Local/national policies, good practice/guidance documents & other relevant documents will be signposted.

PM Session:

- Continue research integrity in practice – step by step guide to responsible animal research:
    3. Continue - Ensure you are familiar and up to date with the research framework including why legislation is not enough. Local/national policies, good practice/guidance documents & other relevant documents will be signposted.
    4. How to design & plan your experiments – the reproducibility crisis will be discussed as well as how to identify and avoiding common pitfalls. The second of the 3Rs 'reduction' will also be discussed. Taking in account the PREPARE guidelines.
    5. Other critical things to think about – the animals' whole lifetime experience, not just time on procedure, good animal welfare = good science because it reduces experimental variables & confounding factors, the third of the 3Rs 'refinement' including the concept of marginal gains and the refinement cycle.
    6. Beyond the experiments - the value of critical, creative and challenging thinking will be discussed in addition to research reporting standards including the ARRIVE guidelines and science communication/public engagement more broadly. Why PREPARE and ARRIVE guidelines: Differences.